

Remarks

In the present response, nine claims (1, 6, 13-19) are amended. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

I. Objection to Title

The title is amended to more clearly indicate an exemplary embodiment of the claims.

II. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, and 12-19 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,777,819 (Tanaka). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131, also, *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Since Tanaka neither teaches nor suggests each element in the claims, these claims are allowable over Tanaka.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites numerous limitations that are not taught or suggested in Tanaka. By way of example, claim 1 recites a coupler that slidably engages “a channel formed behind a tab portion of a storage medium.” FIG. 6 in Tanaka shows an arm 40 having a nail portion 40a that engages an engaging portion 23 in the cassette 1. Nowhere does Tanaka teach or even suggest that the engaging portion 23 is a channel formed behind a tab portion.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Tanaka.

Claim 6

Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable and is placed in independent form. Allowance of this claim is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites numerous limitations that are not taught or suggested in Tanaka. By way of example, claim 13 recites moving a cartridge receiving device proximate a storage medium. The claim then recites slidably engaging the storage medium with a coupler “as the cartridge receiving device moves relative to the storage medium.” The claim then recites transporting the storage medium “with the cartridge retrieving device.” Tanaka does not teach or suggest these method elements.

As shown in FIG. 6 of Tanaka, a retractable arm 40 moves to engage an engaging portion 23 in the cassette 1. Notice that the cassette withdrawing apparatus 37 **does not move** as the arm 40 engages the cassette. Thus, Tanaka does not teach the elements as arranged in claim 13. Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that in order for a prior art reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim,” see M.P.E.P. § 2131, citing *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

For at least these reasons, independent claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable over Tanaka.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is indicated as being allowed. Applicants sincerely thank the Examiner for allowing this claim.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims in this application. With these amendments and remarks, Applicants make a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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